





**LEE THEATRE**  
ADVANCE BOOKING OFFICE—ST. FRANCIS HOTEL  
BOOKING HOURS—11.00 A.M. TO 5.30 P.M. DAILY  
COMMENCING TO-DAY AT 2.30, 5.10, 7.15 & 9.15 P.M.

*Danger as Violent as their Love!*

**HUMPHREY BOGART AND LAUREN BACALL**

THE MOST EXCITING STAR TEAM ON THE SCREEN

**TOGETHER AGAIN!**

**DARK PASSAGE**

BRUCE BENNETT—AGNES MOOREHEAD—TOM D'ANDREA—GLENDA DAVES—JERRY WALD

ALSO LATEST G. B. NEWS: CAMBRIDGE BUMPING RACES, BRITISH FASHIONS FOR HOME & OVERSEA, RUGBY—ENGLAND v. IRELAND.

**CENTRAL THEATRE**

• 5 SHOWS DAILY •  
AT 12.30, 2.30, 5.15, 7.15 & 9.15 P.M.  
• FIRST EPISODE •

1000 SPY CHASING ADVENTURES!  
1000 GUN BLAZING COMBATS!

**THE MASTER KEY**

MILBURN STONE JAN WILK DENNIS MOORE  
MARIS WYKON ALFRED LA RUE  
ADDISON RICHARDS  
RUSSELL HICKS

**ALHAMBRA THEATRE**  
TO-DAY ONLY AT 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 P.M.

**REDGRAVE BARBARA MULLEN**

**THUNDERBOLT**

and JAMES MASON with LILLI PALMER

Directed and Edited by ROY BOULTING  
Produced by JOHN BOULTING  
Screen Play by Jeffrey Pitt and Bernard Miles  
Curt A.  
Distributed by  
ATRO-GOLDWYN PICTURES LTD

TO-MORROW! Gary COOPER • Bing CROSBY  
PARAMOUNT'S "VARIETY GIRL"  
WITH AN ALL-STAR CAST!

**Invitation**  
TO SEE OUR NEW  
**'DONUTS'**  
MACHINE AT WORK  
**ON LOK YUEN CO., LTD.**

You are cordially invited to visit any of our stores during this week to see delicious, fresh doughnuts being made. Untouched by hand, they are ready to take home. Bring the children.

# BRITAIN'S FUTURE DEFENCE

## Service Costs give a clue to Strategy in the Atomic Age

Parliament recently heard how much money is to be spent this coming year on Britain's armed forces. These estimates give a clue to the way military strategists are preparing against the possibility of future war.

The figures themselves tell no more than how much this preparedness is to cost the taxpayers. But, taken alongside the figures and announcements released by Government departments in the last few months, it is possible to build up a picture of the task which has been set for the back-room boys. The report below has been prepared

by **CHAPMAN PINCHER**

**T**he Service-trained mind five aspects of the plan are clear:

1 The Government is banking on there being no major war which could involve Britain or the Empire within ten years.

EVIDENCE: (A) Forces manpower has been cut far below the security level fixed by the defence chiefs.

(B) Our main reserves of warships, aircraft, and tanks are, being scrapped or put into cold storage where, for lack of maintenance, much equipment must become unserviceable.

2 The defensive policy is based on the assumption that experimental weapons evolved towards the end of the last war can be developed to the operational stage.

EVIDENCE: (A) More than £107,000,000 has been allotted to the Supply Ministry and Admiralty for development work.

(B) Reorganisation of the Services is being held up until reports on the battle possibilities of the new weapons are available.

(C) Government contracts for orthodox tanks and artillery have been cut or cancelled.

3 Any mass production of these new weapons—in the event of an emergency—will be done chiefly in America.

EVIDENCE: (A) British armaments—are being standardised to American types and callibres. (B) The two Governments are pooling research results.

4 The scientists have decided that within ten years there is no possibility of producing a long-range rocket capable of carrying the atomic bomb, which weighs four tons.

EVIDENCE: (A) The Air Secretary announced this week that the R.A.F. is to have a highly mobile striking force of fast bombers. (B) The Americans, who are far ahead of Britain in rocket research, have not yet built a missile as powerful as the original V2.

5 The Navy will probably specialise in fast submarines and small aircraft-carriers equipped with rocket-assisted planes capable of carrying atomic bombs.

EVIDENCE: (A) The Navy is concentrating on submarine research. (B) Reports of the Bikini atom bomb tests suggest that the U.S. Navy will specialise along these lines.

### FOUR WAYS

THE four major weapons which emerged from the last war—the atomic bomb, germ warfare, guided anti-aircraft missiles, and nerve gases—are the ones on which I think Government scientists are most likely to concentrate.

I think there is little doubt that the Government intends to make atomic bombs.

Second, research on germ warfare has gone so far ahead in America that the U.S. Air Force is said to be already equipped with a biological bomb of great striking power.

The Government has announced that Britain has a biological warfare station on Salisbury Plain.

Guided missiles are being developed at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough (Hants) and the Westcott (Bucks) rocket stations. Scientists there are trying to devise radio-guided anti-aircraft missiles.

But the problems involved are great. It is likely, therefore, that some of the money earmarked for anti-aircraft research will be spent on the improvement of standard guns.

The fourth 'most likely' priority project—the nerve gases—is a development of work started by the Germans. Two gases called tabun and sarin—one drop of which on the skin is certain death—were discovered accidentally in an I.G. Farben laboratory. The Germans filled 10,000 tons of shells with the gases, but did not use them for fear of reprisals. The British scientists are unlikely to neglect this field of research.

From the overall size of the Services it is clear that they are intended purely for defence.

When announcing the plan Defence Minister Mr A. V. Alexander put it this way: "The role of our forces must be to deter aggression while safeguarding British interests."



### Empire News

## Chocolate soldiers go to war

ACCRA (Gold Coast).—A £3,000,000 war on swollen shoot disease, which threatens to wipe out the cocoa industry, has been started by the Gold Coast Government.

Government scientists will lead the attack on a 380-mile line of plantations where the disease is imperilling the Colonial Empire's most valuable monopoly.

Three quarters of the world's supply of cocoa, from which chocolate is made, comes from West Africa.

Scientists say the plague can be stopped in five years, but the only cure is to cut down a tree at the first sign of infection.

Planters are to be paid £5 an acre for cutting down "sick" trees. Those who replant and keep trees healthy will get an extra £7 an acre.

OTTAWA.—Squaws of Alberta Indian tribes have won an equal vote in tribal affairs, thus ending centuries-old male domination. At a pow-wow in Calgary, the Indian Association of Alberta voted to give the squaws full rights. The Federal Parliament Indian Affairs Committee will be asked to alter the Indian Act to give women a vote for chiefs and councillors, and take part in tribal administration.

BRISBANE.—The Queensland Government has closed almost the whole of the State railways, throwing 19,000 men out of work, because 3,000 maintenance workers are on strike for higher pay. A long stoppage will mean industrial dislocation and serious food shortages.

CHRISTCHURCH (N. Z.).—Miners have won New Zealand's first "consumer resistance" campaign. West Coast (South Island) publicans have been forced, after four months' boycott, to sell beer a penny cheaper than the Government-controlled price, 7d. a glass.

CANBERRA.—Plans for a Pacific cruise by an Australian squadron, following depletion of the British Pacific Fleet, have been delayed until two new aircraft-carriers, building in Britain, join the Australian Navy.

PRETORIA.—South Africa's illegal immigrants, it has been disclosed, totalled 972 in the last two years; 833 of them ships' deserters, of whom 497 were from Britain.

# I took a piece of butter to Germany

At any time now—as the German leaders have secretly warned the British administration there—the people of the Ruhr may take the law into their hands and raid Germany's farms for food. For weeks now the clash between the towns and the countryside in the battle for something to eat has been growing more serious. Money is no solution Sir Stafford Cripps said: "The Germans don't want their own money." As a commentary on this crisis, here is a from-the-spot report on a problem which touches British pockets....

by **BRUCE BLUNT**

I TOOK a small piece of butter into Germany. It was meant as an emergency ration, but it was not needed—simply because I kept clear of the towns!

The German farmer does not mean to starve. Unfortunately, though, he does not care two-pence how many of his fellow-Germans in the towns go hungry.

In direct control of the German farmer are the German authorities. They do not mean to starve, either. Their instrument for enforcing law is the German police. I put them also among those who don't sit down to empty plates.

Hunger and corruption always go together. They cling together arm-in-arm in a country where normal money can buy nothing.

### At the farm

TAKE a typical small farm in the flat lands of Lower Saxony. I went there unannounced on a rainy day, so everyone was probably at home. But by no means everyone was visible. There was an atmosphere of brooding suspicion about the place, of shadows moving in the background, and of unseen eyes which watched.

A woman came to the door. Her face was glowing with health and her eyes were full of life.

Of course, she said, we could see all over the place. The first thing we saw was a horse in its stall. In its corner the manger was a sprinkling of chopped rye and oat straw. This, said the woman, was its staple diet. I must say it looked remarkably well fed for a horse which had such meagre means.

I noticed also that it was well shod. Yet you cannot even buy a horseshoe nail in Germany—with money.

### Fine pigs

AMONG clean litter in concrete pens lay a fat sow and store pigs of various sizes. They were fed, I was told, on mangolds and potato peelings. Any English farmer would have been proud of these pigs.

Our Small Pig Keepers' Council would hardly recommend mangolds as a first-class fattener for pigs. And I was too tactful to ask how this small farmer managed to keep back enough potatoes to provide peelings for so many pigs.

But then, or course, it is the Germans who send in their own estimates of possible production. The British can revise these figures, and

this was done, for example, in the estimate of potatoes last season. The German estimate was 8,000,000 tons. The British sent back an estimate of 12,000,000 tons, which the Germans accepted. As their eventual delivery was only 60 percent of this, their acceptance may have been polite, but was somewhat ineffective—(except, perhaps, from the pig's point of view).

The land was well tilled, the winter corn was green and forward—and yet you cannot buy a ploughshare or a harrow-disk in Germany with money.

The farm-wife's boots were in good repair—but the village cobbler will not do this work for marks. In other words, everything which a farmer needs must be bought on the black market with goods or services. Poultry or pork, or butter or eggs, must be paid to the blacksmith and the cobbler, and to any other tradesman with whom the farmer deals.

There are other services, rendered by the German officials and police, which have also to be paid for in kind. Remember that these are the authorities which are supposed to have direct control over the farmers for enforcing regulations.

Suppose that a German farmer reports that one of his cows has been stolen. The German policeman who suggests that it may still be on the farm will usually be only too pleased to take a joint of meat and say nothing more about it.

### Missing cattle

NOW a cow is not at first sight an easy animal to steal, but the number of missing cattle which is reported in the two zones suggests that the German population has mastered this difficult art to perfection. Indeed, when searches were made for last year's census of stock, 1,790 unaccounted cattle and 2,000,000 unknown pigs were found about the place!

The impossibility of the whole task of supervision becomes obvious when you look at the figures. There are only about 30 British farm inspectors attached to the British zone.

Ten of these are at present in the U.S. zone. Yet there are 700,000 farms for these few unfortunate men to keep an eye on. And this does not take into account any holdings which are smaller than five-sixths of an acre.

And quite a lot of fun can be had of five-sixths of an acre! It is a disillusioning picture, this, when you remember 1944, August 1945 to November 1945, 1,035,000,000 dollars (£258,750,000) have been paid for food imports into the British and U.S. zones of Germany. The British taxpayer has paid exactly half!

## BY THE WAY by Beachcomber

"CHRISTMAS seems to have come a little early this year," was the comment in the village, as the noise at Wretch Manor increased.

Every time the Colonel tried to speak he was cheered to the echo. Every time Mrs Wretch opened her mouth the dwarfs jumped up and down in their glee, crying out, "Oh, very brave! Oh, well done, lady!" The improvised see-saw was crowded with people and Soboldigo the Demon Cyclist had found an old bicycle, and was threading his way round the rooms backwards waving the detached handle-bars above his head. Farjole, Merrybody was imitating a lion-voiced cuckoo, while Badly Oronpanser and Barkayo-Tong

danced the Kickadillo on the table. Bitato the trapeze-king, was testing the strength of a chandelier.

### A welcome diversion

It was only when the Colonel had fetched an old megaphone, which he used when coaching the Wych Green Rowing Club, that he was able to shout loudly enough to make his meaning clear. The revelry died down, and all crowded round eager to, like children who expect cake after games, "Mrs Wretch, and I," he said, "are at a loss to explain this—er—this—er—business. Perhaps Mr Wugwell would like to say a word. Perhaps Mr Wugwell would have liked to say a word. We shall never know. For at that moment the local fire-engine passed through the village, with its bell clanging,

and, with a cry of "Muffins!" the whole rag, tag and bobtail pelted out of the house, and rushed down the drive and into the village.

### Interlude

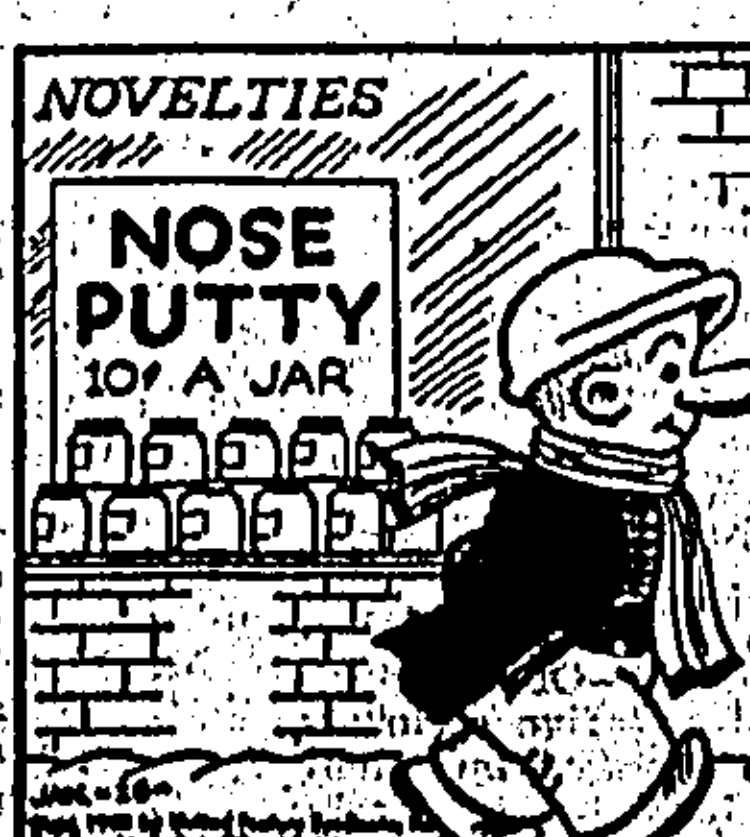
Prodnose: You destroy the illusion of truth by exaggeration. How can anyone believe all this nonsense?

Myself: If you are insinuating that newspapers invent things, you are making a very grave charge. Prodnose: Well, you don't really suggest that all this happened?

Myself: No hints, please. Make your accusation like a man. Prodnose: Very well. I don't believe a word of it.

Myself: You will hear from my solicitors.

### NANCY Cosy Noses



### By Ernie Bushmiller





## Women BEAUTY ARTS

By LOIS LEEDS



Posed for Lois Leeds.

Your arms must look pretty this Summer!

### CALL TO ARMS!

The summer season is often a Call to Arms! Are you ready to answer with smooth, lovely arms?

In this busy world of today women do not so often find it necessary to don an evening dress. But when you MUST, your arms are right out in the "open"—and can they "take it"?

Even though you do not often expose your arms and shoulders, why not keep them in lovely condition? It's an aid to your well being and your vanity.

A soft body brush is important. Scrub arms and shoulders with a rich soap lather. Rinse, then scrub vigorously with common table salt. Rinse again. Apply a little of your favourite cream, massaging it well into the skin.

For a lovely evening makeup, apply liquid powder rubbing it in with the fingertips. Do not powder, else your dancing partner will be powdered too! A light film of vanishing cream also gives a smooth mat finish.

This arm treatment is very important to those of you who find that the skin on your arms and shoulders becomes red and irritated

when you wear wools, such as sweaters.

Beauty Quiz

"Dear Lois Leeds—I am thirteen, blue eyes, blonde hair, fair skin. I would like to know how to wear my hair. What lipstick and powder?"

—MAY ELLEN

For Teen Age girls I think that the simple hair styles are the prettiest but as you do not tell me the shape of your face, I cannot suggest the best style. I am afraid that you are a little young to wear lipstick. A light application of face powder should match your skin tone.

### CHECKS AND FLOWERS



Introducing spring checks and flowers. In the suit above, from the "lan-Meredith" collection, brown and white check is used.

### Minute Makeup by GABRIELLE



Be Yourself! Portray your role with Charm, Poise and simple Dignity. The lady whose charms have been publicized around the world and who heads every list of the world's best-dressed women, follows that plan. She chooses clothes that flatter her lovely, blue-white hair. She is herself, as charming as possible, smartly groomed, but always—herself!

## Uncle Sam Discovers Trouble In Paradise

BY MORRIS HARRIS

Washington, Mar. 11.—Life in Uncle Sam's Pacific paradises is just one trouble after another. The gentle waving coconut trees are being wiped out by insects. The carefree inhabitants are anything but. And American money will be needed to avert bankruptcy for many years, says a U. S. Navy expert.

### DEATH PARTS VETERAN TWIN SOLDIERS

Only twice since they were born 87 years ago at Dartford, in Kent, has William Birchfield been without his twin brother, Henry. Different postings during the Boer War temporarily separated these two old Royal Scots veterans. And now they have been finally parted. Henry is dead. Brother William is very poorly in hospital in Cape Town.

As school kids they dressed alike and were called for the same scraps. At 16 they were still dressed alike, this time in the uniform of the 1st Bn. Royal Scots Regiment. Side by side they campaigned in Ireland, Malta and Barbados, and fought in the Boer War, which separated them for the first time. Henry was posted to Hoofjes Bay and William to Berg River.

It was not long, however, before they were together again in the Cape Town Customs, working side by side until their joint retirement in 1923. For a quarter of a century since they shared the same house in Anchor Bay, where their garden was a picture for all to see and admire.

But the other day Henry was taken ill, and their second separation arose with his removal to hospital for an operation. He died not long before William was carried into the same ward to undergo the same operation. Doctors think it may not be long before the twins are together again.

### HOW TO GET BACK FROM THE MOON

Tall, blond, 30-year-old scientist Arthur Clarke is confident how to get back from the moon.

Chairman of the flourishing 500-strong Interplanetary Society, Arthur explained that a rocket-propelled space ship would have rockets on either side, which could turn the ship round when it approached the moon's gravitational sphere.

With rockets fired to slow it down, and pulled towards the moon, the space ship would land backwards in the right position for the take-off back to earth.

Most members of the society are scientists. Others are poets, artists, and writers (including George Bernard Shaw), to whom the idea appealed.

A journey to the moon, said Clarke, would take four days. Peak velocity of the spaceship would be 25,000 miles an hour.

### Ship Will Not Land

It would circle around the moon like a satellite, taking photographs but not landing.

Atomic energy would be necessary to propel the passengered ship. People could stay on the moon for weeks wearing pressurized space suits and eating concentrated food.

Said Clarke: "Space-flying is in a similar position to where flying was in 1890."

"No one actually set out for it at that time. All science in all countries contributed.

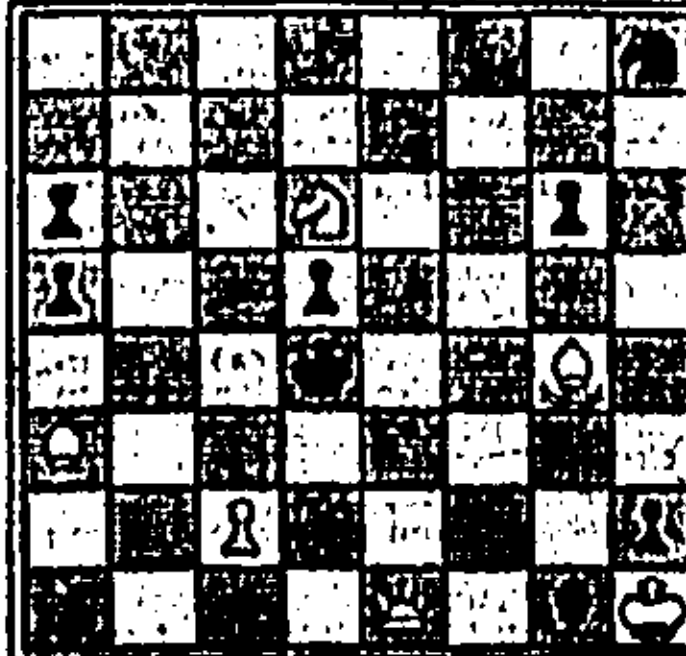
"We shall be helped by radar and atomic energy.

"Scientific discoveries are all working towards making a moon flight possible."

### CHESS PROBLEM

By G. HEATHCOTE

Black, 8 pieces.



White, 6 pieces. White to play and mate in three.

Solution to yesterday's problem: 1. P-Q4 (c4); 2. Q-Q4; 3. Q-Q4; 4. P-Q4; 5. P-Q4; 6. P-Q4; 7. P-Q4; 8. P-Q4; 9. P-Q4; 10. P-Q4; 11. P-Q4; 12. P-Q4; 13. P-Q4; 14. P-Q4; 15. P-Q4; 16. P-Q4; 17. P-Q4; 18. P-Q4; 19. P-Q4; 20. P-Q4; 21. P-Q4; 22. P-Q4; 23. P-Q4; 24. P-Q4; 25. P-Q4; 26. P-Q4; 27. P-Q4; 28. P-Q4; 29. P-Q4; 30. P-Q4; 31. P-Q4; 32. P-Q4; 33. P-Q4; 34. P-Q4; 35. P-Q4; 36. P-Q4; 37. P-Q4; 38. P-Q4; 39. P-Q4; 40. P-Q4; 41. P-Q4; 42. P-Q4; 43. P-Q4; 44. P-Q4; 45. P-Q4; 46. P-Q4; 47. P-Q4; 48. P-Q4; 49. P-Q4; 50. P-Q4; 51. P-Q4; 52. P-Q4; 53. P-Q4; 54. P-Q4; 55. P-Q4; 56. P-Q4; 57. P-Q4; 58. P-Q4; 59. P-Q4; 60. P-Q4; 61. P-Q4; 62. P-Q4; 63. P-Q4; 64. P-Q4; 65. P-Q4; 66. P-Q4; 67. P-Q4; 68. P-Q4; 69. P-Q4; 70. P-Q4; 71. P-Q4; 72. P-Q4; 73. P-Q4; 74. P-Q4; 75. P-Q4; 76. P-Q4; 77. P-Q4; 78. P-Q4; 79. P-Q4; 80. P-Q4; 81. P-Q4; 82. P-Q4; 83. P-Q4; 84. P-Q4; 85. P-Q4; 86. P-Q4; 87. P-Q4; 88. P-Q4; 89. P-Q4; 90. P-Q4; 91. P-Q4; 92. P-Q4; 93. P-Q4; 94. P-Q4; 95. P-Q4; 96. P-Q4; 97. 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## PRECAUTIONS TO PROTECT CHURCHILL

London, Mar. 11.—Scotland Yard, Metropolitan police headquarters, took special precautions today for the security of Mr. Winston Churchill after a Southampton police station had, last night, received an anonymous warning that Britain's wartime leader "was to be assassinated" at midday today.

Scotland Yard stated today, however, that the call made over the Southampton emergency telephone system "was in a childish voice."

The incident had not this morning been brought to the notice of Mr. Churchill's staff.—Reuter

## Vandenberg Chides U.S. Senate

Washington, Mar. 11.—Senator Arthur Vandenberg, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, today chided the Senate for the "microscopic examination of words and phrases" which has marked the first 10 days of the debate on the Marshall Plan, and declared: "We cannot continue in this manner if the urgent deadline is to be met."

Senator Vandenberg was opposing an amendment to the European recovery programme submitted by Senator Homer Capehart (Republican of Indiana).

Under the amendment, the Marshall Plan as laid down would be all but scrapped and replaced by a programme of reconstruction through private enterprise.

Senator Vandenberg said the proposal was a completely different approach to the whole problem and asked the Senate to reject it.

He asked Senator Capehart to submit the proposal to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for later consideration.

At first reluctant to submit his proposal to a vote, Senator Capehart finally agreed to put it up for a decision by the Senate on Friday.—Reuter

**Discussion By Communists**

London, Mar. 11.—The Communists are for the first time ready to discuss the Marshall Plan. A leading Communist, Signor Giuseppe Di Vittorio, is bringing to London an Italian trade union delegation which will tomorrow start discussions on the plan with two representatives of the American Congress of Industrial Organizations, Mr. James Carey and Mr. Richard Ross.

The delegation comes from the majority group of the Italian Labour Federation, which comprises both Communists and Socialists.

Unlike the non-Communist minority group, it declined to attend this week's London conference of trade unionists from the Marshall Plan states.

When Signor Giuseppe Pastore decided to lead the Italian delegation to that conference, Signor Vittorio was said to have condemned his action as "incompatible with the discipline of the Federation."

One theory about the visit of the Italian delegation advanced here is that it might represent an attempt by the Italian Communists to ensure, in the light of the coming Italian elections, that their attitude to the earlier conference should not prejudice the Italian hopes of dollar aid in the European recovery programme.

At the Trades Union Congress headquarters, it was stated that it was entirely a matter between the Italian delegation and the American trade union representatives.

The Italian delegation is expected here tonight.—Reuter

## Davis Cup First Round Tie

Zurich, Mar. 11.—The first round of the Davis Cup tie between Pakistan and Switzerland will be played at Montreux from April 30 to May 2. First Spitzer, the Swiss champion and No. 1, will act as non-playing captain to the Swiss team, which will be: Hans Hunder, Max Albrecht, J. P. Blondel and Edgar Buchi.

Hunder and Albrecht are ranked immediately behind Spitzer, Blondel and Buchi are fifth and sixth respectively in the Swiss rankings.

The Swiss team will receive special coaching for the Cup match from the Zurich coach, Mr. H. de Benarjols.—Reuter

## NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

Advertisers are requested to note that not less than 24 hours notice prior to the day of publication should be given for all commercial display advertisements, change of copy etc. Notices and classified advertisements will be received up till 4.30 p.m. for the following day.

## ASSEMBLY GIVES BIDAULT VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

Paris, Mar. 11.—The French National Assembly expressed its confidence in the Government's foreign policy today by 419 votes to 183.

Members of all parties, except the Communists, voted for the Government.

The vote was on a motion in the course of which the Assembly expressed "its fraternal greetings to the democrats in Czechoslovakia who are today forced into silence and deprived of their essential liberties."

The French Foreign Minister, M. Georges Bidault, gave a resume of French foreign policy and was applauded by all sections of the Assembly except the Communists.

"The march of events in each of the Eastern European countries, M. Bidault said, had been very similar and was of a nature which 'does not please us'."

The moment had arrived to go "as far as possible" to constitute a union among the Western European countries. Parliament would shortly be informed of the results of the Brussels Conference, he hoped, would be considered substantial and satisfactory.

### Basis Of Freedom

"We have got to get together on the basis of the principles of freedom," he declared. "Loud and prolonged applause greeted this statement as the Assembly, with the exception of the Communists, rose to its feet."

Earlier in his speech, M. Bidault discussed the Greek question, and said: "The Greek Government has its imperfections. Perfect governments do not exist in free countries. To the honour of Greece, I must say that it has a government freely elected in internationally supervised elections."

Of Franco-Italian customs union negotiations, M. Bidault said the talks were continuing. The Government would continue to negotiate but approval must come from Parliament.

### Turn To Future

"Our choice has been made between an egoism which, in our time, is outmoded, and the common use of the resources of European countries. We have turned our forces to the future."

Replying to accusations of forming a Western bloc, M. Bidault read a list of 15 treaties of mutual assistance signed with Eastern European countries between 1943 and 1948.

"Western Europe, for the service of liberty, has the right to do what has been done elsewhere," he declared.

### Relations With Spain

Paris, Mar. 11.—The French Foreign Minister, M. Georges Bidault, in the French Assembly today spoke in support of Franco's decision to resume diplomatic and commercial relations with Spain.

"Everybody has maintained relations with Spain except France," he said. "Yet French investments represent 50 percent of all foreign investments."

Turning to the Communist deputies, he said: "A refusal on our part to re-establish normal relations with Spain could only be defended by those who are particularly anxious to promote anti-French interests in the Peninsula."

He compared the French attitude to Spain with the Soviet attitude to Argentina, with whom, M. Bidault recalled, Soviet Russia had severed diplomatic relations after denouncing the internal regime there.

### Cultural Interests

M. Bidault said: "What is permitted one power must equally be permitted to others. The French Government hoped that democracy would return to Spain one day. Just as the Government hoped democracy would return 'elsewhere' one day."

The French Foreign Minister added there were also French cultural interests to be defended in Spain.

Replying to a Communist interruption about Frenchmen in Spanish jails, M. Bidault replied that representations had been made by the French Government, and, as a result, lives had been saved and liberties restored, not only for Frenchmen but also for Spanish subjects.

The resumption of relations should permit better results, he added. The political aspect of relations with Spain was unchanged.—Reuter

### Call-Up Of Youth

Paris, Mar. 11.—The French National Assembly today passed a bill authorising the Government to call up this year the 200,000 men of the 1948 class (the 20th year) who would normally be called up next year.

The Communists, opposing the bill, accused the Government of turning the French Army into "America's police force" and turning French soldiers into "dollar soldiers".—Reuter

## Household God Feast Day

Today, the second day of the second lunar month, is the feast of the "Household God" who is supposed to guard every household from evil spirits. He is depicted as a benevolent old man with a long beard.

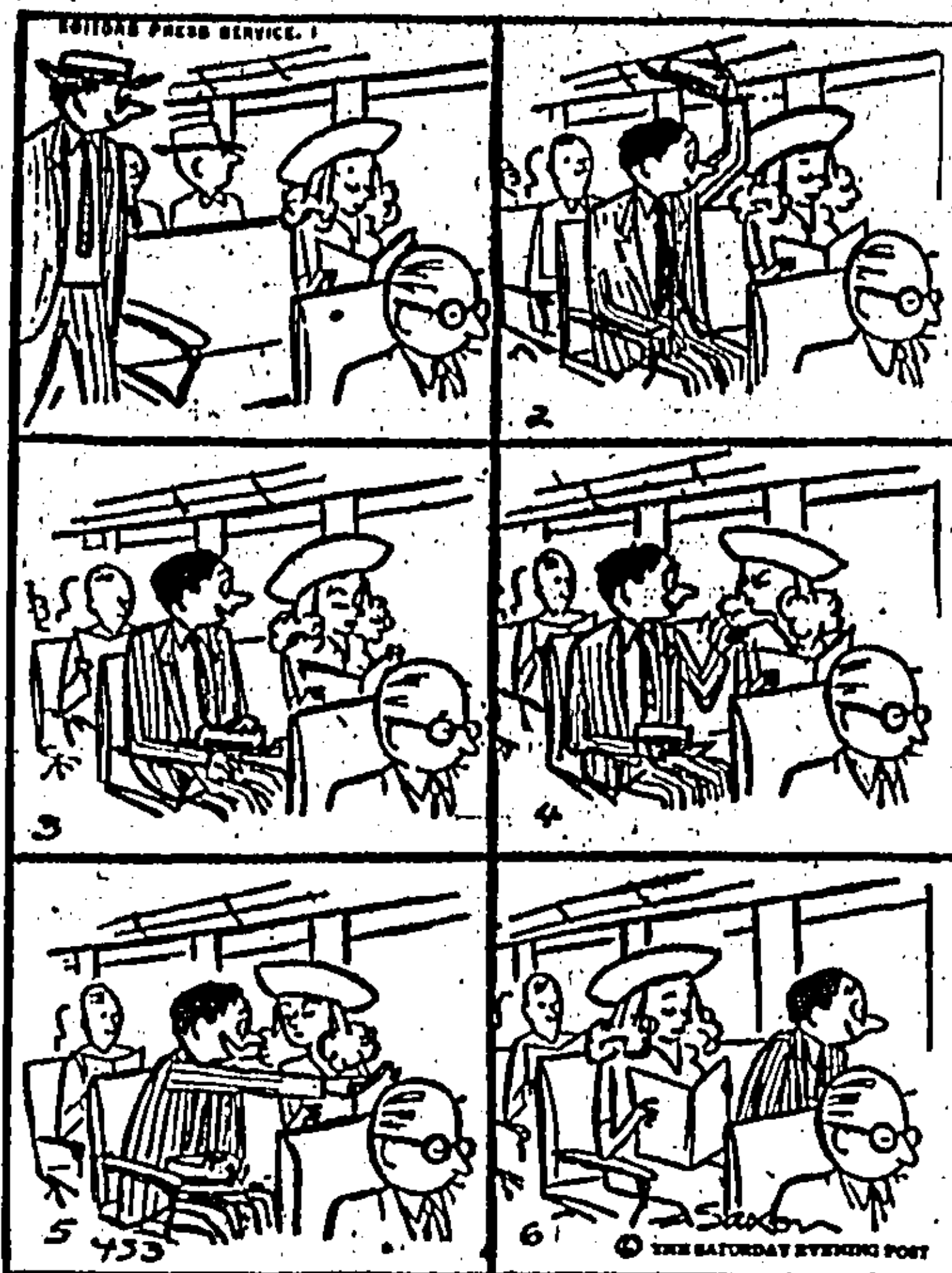
It is traditionally believed that if it rains on his feast day, there will be drought for a hundred days because the god's cloak gets wet and will take a hundred days to dry.

In villages of China, this feast is celebrated with pomp and the offering of meat and fruits in the temples.

Crowds also gather to watch the firing of a large bamboo cracker. Luck for the year will belong to the one whose cracker falls, and he, in turn, offers wine and a roast pig as a thanksgiving to the god.

## Queen Wilhelmina Advised To Retire

The Hague, Mar. 11.—Queen Wilhelmina has been advised by her doctor to retire from public life, it was announced today.



## IRON CURTAIN MAY FALL OVER CHINA, SAYS KOO

New York, Mar. 11.—Dr. V. K. Wellington Koo, Chinese Ambassador to the United States, today warned that an iron curtain will fall around China if the Communist Party there succeeds in overthrowing the Nationalist Government.

Ambassador Koo, addressing the New York State Chamber of Commerce, said the Chinese Communist Party has an army of at least 1,000,000 men, and the National Government needs prompt military assistance as well as economic aid from the United States if it is to survive.

Koo said: "The present struggle of China against the Communist attempt at domination and control of the whole country has a deep meaning and significance, not only for China in her effort to achieve national unification, but also for the United States and, indeed, for the peace of the world. For the situation in China as created by the Communist war to seize control of the country by force of arms is but part of the same programme of Communist expansion for the domination of the world."

**Immense Market**

New York, Mar. 11.—China offered immense potentialities as a market for American goods and hoped to pay for these with raw material of all kinds useful to American industry, Dr. Wellington Koo, the Chinese Ambassador to the United States, today told a group of American businessmen.

Addressing the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York, Dr. Koo said: "The predominant tendency of industrialization in China for the next quarter of a century will be to establish and develop light industries in order to produce consumer goods to meet the multiple problem of feeding, clothing and housing nearly 500,000,000 people, this would be a task of such magnitude that she is not contemplating achieving it within the next few years."

"China will continue for a long time to import food products, textile goods, lumber and other building materials, not to say household equipment such as radiators, lamps, electric fans and air conditioning apparatus."

"Take textile goods, for example, China today has 2,500,000 spindles, including all Japanese owned textile mills now taken over by China and of this number 3,500,000 spindles are in operation, producing yarn for weaving cloth. Yet this amount is only half of what China needs—that is, 10,000,000 spindles."

**Capital Investment**

"In other words, the potentialities of China as a market for American goods of almost all types is immense. In order to pay for these imports, China will look forward to developing the supply of Chinese raw materials of all kinds useful to American industry."

"The United States and the United States is mainly complementary and not competitive."

"In the second place, the very fact that China is determined to carry out a programme of industrialization means that there will be a great field for capital investment. One hundred and one kinds of factories and plants will have to be established, and this will call for an outlay of capital and a great deal of technical skill and assistance."

"In other words, it will call for co-operation from the United States, which is so eminently qualified in this field to extend co-operation for mutual benefit."—Reuter

## KING'S THEATRE BLAZE

(Continued from Page 1)—blowing of Police whistles by excited neighbours, the Central Fire Brigade arrived. Hoses were soon brought into play both from the street and from the APC building. In the meantime, the body of Lai, who was bleeding profusely about the head, was removed on a stretcher.

Subsequently the Emergency Unit came on the scene under Sub-Inspector Jones and Bailey, to control the crowd.

The fire was extinguished within about half-an-hour.

The cause of the blaze was on the stage.

## Vatican Statement On Priests' Disgrace

Rome, Mar. 11.—L'Osservatore Romano announced tonight that the resignation of Monsignor Giulio Guidetti from the office of Administration of Holy See Properties "was provoked by his involvement in some of the financial operations of Edoardo Pretner," unfrocked Monsignor now in Italian police hands.

These operations, the announcement said, "concerned sums of Alessandro Rossini," an Italian industrialist.

The Vatican paper said it was authorised to declare that the Cardinalatial Commission for the Administration of Holy See Properties, of which Guidetti was Secretary, "knew nothing of this."

Rossini, after writing to Pope Pius on January 29 and listing consignments of some 400,000,000 of lire he said he had made to the Properties Office, on Wednesday filed charges against Guidetti with the Italian police.

A Vatican press office announcement on March 8 said that Guidetti had been placed under house arrest pending investigation of his honouring a document falsified by Pretner.

Under the terms of the Lateran treaties, Italian police will not be able to arrest Guidetti while he wears the cloth.

Listed as Secretary of the Properties Office, Guidetti was in effect its administrator, ranked only by four Cardinals who served in an advisory capacity.

**Charges Filed**

The Vatican yesterday announced the appointment of Monsignor Sergio Guerresio to succeed Guidetti in this post.

L'Osservatore Romano tonight again pointed out that Guidetti's resignation dated from January 29, one day before Rossini sent his letter to the Pontiff.

Rossini today told the Associated Press that the Holy See had no proposal for restitution and that he had therefore filed charges with Italian police authorities.

Vatican announcements have not said whether Monsignor Guidetti continues in his other high offices. These include being Consul of the Congregation of Seminaries. The other is Prince Carlo Pacelli, a nephew of the Pope. Deputy Camerlengo of the Ecclesiastical Hospice of the 100 Priests (founded by Pope Pius IX in 1858 for old or incapacitated Rome priests), and Consul for the Opere Di Religione (Custody and administration of funds for religious works).

**Foreign Exchange Dealings**

With Italy's national elections less than six weeks away, the Communist and pro-Communist press continues to splash the story of Pretner and Guidetti.

Pretner is charged with having misappropriated jewels entrusted to his care during the German occupation. Police have also estimated that his dealings in foreign exchange totalled 1,000,000,000 Lire.

The right wing press retaliated today with new accounts of "the treasure of Dongo," which has been several times publicised in the pages since Benito Mussolini was captured and slain by partisans near Dongo.

Recurrent reports have blamed the Communists for the disappearance of the treasure the ex-Duce was endeavouring to take with him to Switzerland.

**Vatican Reply**

Even L'Osservatore Romano, in answering the Communist and Socialist Avanti, referred to the

treasure of Dongo and, repeating Avanti's declaration that the Italian people on April 18 "will not vote for robbers," said: "Pretner is not a candidate."

L'Osservatore tonight published this communiqué:

"It is known that since January 29, 1948 Monsignor Giulio Guidetti has given his resignation from the Office of Secretary of the Cardinalatial Commission for the Administration of Holy See Properties. The resignation was provoked by the fact that Monsignor Guidetti has been co-involved in some of the operations of Edoardo Pretner Clippio, concerning sums of Alessandro Rossini."

"We are authorised to declare that the Administration of Properties of the Holy See knew nothing of this."—Associated Press

### NOTICE

THE CHINA PROVIDENT LOAN & MORTGAGE CO., LTD.

### Notice To Shareholders

NOTICE is hereby given that the Forty Seventh Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders will be held in the Jacobson Room of the Hongkong Hotel, Pedder Street, Hongkong, on Saturday, the 3rd April, 1948, at NOON for the following purposes, namely, to consider the annual statement of accounts and the balance sheet, and the reports of the Directors and Auditors thereon, to elect Directors and Auditors in the place of those retiring, to declare a dividend and bonus, to appropriate the balance of Profit and Loss Account as recommended by the Directors, and to transact any other ordinary business of the Company.

AND NOTICE is also given that the Share Transfer Registers will be closed from 30th March, 1948 to 3rd April, 1948, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board,  
R. A. WICKERSON,  
Managing Director.

Hongkong, 9th March, 1948.

### NOTICE

Y. M. C. A.  
THE MIDDLE WATCH  
THE MATINEE Performance of  
"THE MIDDLE WATCH"  
for Saturday Afternoon (3 p.m.) has been

CANCELLED  
Those who have already booked seats may have their money refunded on application to Booking Office.

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